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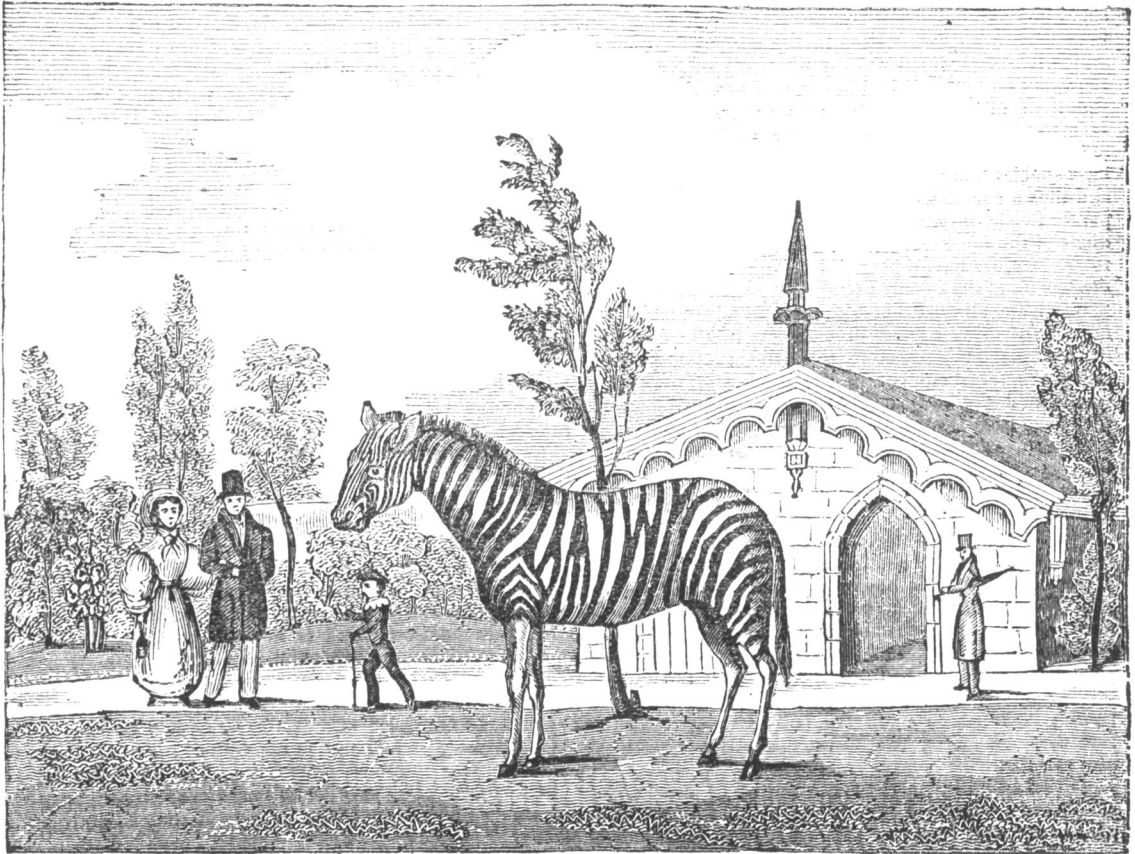
THE
DUBLIN PENNY JOURNAL

CONDUCTED BY P. DIXON HARDY, M.R.I.A.

Vol. IV.

APRIL 23. 1836.

No. 199.



THE ZEBRA.—VIEW IN THE ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS.

The zebra is the most beautiful, and at the same time the wildest animal in nature. Nothing can exceed the delicate regularity of this creature's colour, or the lustrous smoothness of its skin: but, on the other hand, nothing can be more timid or more untameable. The zebra in shape rather resembles the mule than the horse or the ass; it is rather less than the former, and yet larger than the latter. Its ears are not so long as those of the ass, and yet not so small as in the horse kind. Like the ass, its head is large, its back straight, its legs finely placed, and its tail tufted at the end; like the horse, its skin is smooth and close, and its hind quarters round and fleshy. But its greatest beauty lies in the amazing regularity and elegance of its colours. In the male, they are white and brown; in the female, white and black. In the common zebra these colours are disposed in alternate stripes over the whole body, and with such exactness and symmetry, that one would think nature had employed the rule and compass to paint them. These stripes, which, like so many ribbands, are laid all over its body, are narrow, parallel, and exactly separated from each other. It is not here as in other party-coloured animals, where the tints are blended into each other; every stripe here is perfectly distinct, and preserves its colour round the body, or the limb, without any diminution. In this manner are the head, the body, the thighs, the legs, and even the tail and the ears, beautifully streaked, so that at a distance one would be apt to suppose that the animal was dressed out by art, and not thus admirably adorned by nature.

VOL. IV.—NO. 43.

ON THE STRUCTURE OF ANIMALS.

As connected with the remarks introductory to the description of some of the animals in the Zoological Gardens, which we gave in our two preceding numbers, the following observations on the structure of some portions of the human frame, which, as we have already remarked, may be taken as the model of construction for the entire class of animals termed *mammalia*—for all quadrupeds, and in a lesser degree even for others—will not, we trust, be deemed uninteresting. From the junction of the very important science of comparative anatomy with those of geology and zoology, what a vast fund of information has been within a very few years obtained, as compared with what was known, even to men of science, but a very short time since. A recent writer on this subject observes, that “the discoveries of philosophers, who have occupied themselves in comparing the anatomical structure of the lower animals with that of the human frame, and have created the interesting and beautiful department of science called comparative anatomy, have enabled them to establish certain fixed and invariable principles for our guidance in this curious branch of geological inquiry. This field of investigation has only been entered upon within a few years; but it has already yielded so rich a harvest, that it has established some of the most important truths connected with the past history of our planet. The great discoverer of those general laws of the animal kingdom was the illustrious French naturalist, the Baron Cuvier.

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